

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08684 110819Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4091
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8684

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON, SAUNDERS AND HODDING CARTER III

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PGOV IS EG US
SUBJ: KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT

1. THE JULY 11 PAPERS HERE ARE FULL OF REPORTS FROM VIENNA OF THE KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. SHIMON PERES APPARENTLY BELIEVES HE GAINED "A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT," AND EGYPTIAN SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SADAT, TOO, IS PLEASED WITH THE STATEMENT.

2. WHILE WE OF COURSE WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT WE SAY ABOUT IT. PERES HAS, THROUGH HIS MEETING WITH SADAT AND HIS SUPPORT OF THIS STATEMENT, FAIRLY WELL SET THE CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS HERE. BEGIN AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL WITHOUT QUESTION REPLY IN KIND AND THE DOMESTIC DEBATE IN ISRAEL WILL BE BITTER. INDEED, THIS WEEK HAS ALREADY SEEN CHARGES WHICH CLEARLY ORIGINATED IN BEGIN'S OFFICE THAT PERES IS SACRIFICING THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST IN PURSUIT OF HIS OWN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. ANYTHING SPECIFIC AND POSITIVE WE SAY ABOUT THE KREISKY-BRANDT LANGUAGE WILL BE USED AGAINST US AND PERES BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS MOMENT IS BUILT FOR CHARGES OF US INTERFERENCE
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IN ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD DISAVOW OUR OWN LANGUAGE. IT IS ONLY MEANT TO CAUTION WASHINGTON THAT OUR PUBLIC RESPONSE SHOULD BE FRAMED IN A WAY THAT STIMULATES RATHER THAN MUFFLES THE INTERNAL DISCUSSION HERE, THAT ALLOWS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PERES AND BEGIN TO BE

CLARIFIED THROUGH STATEMENTS BY THEM AND NOT MUDDIED THROUGH
OBVIOUS US PARTISANSHIP. LEWIS

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